

**00499**

**1962/10/17**

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**OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State**

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**ACTION: CIRCULAR 674.**

Subject is USG desire stop Soviet flights to Cuba.

USSR has been operating flights to Cuba via North Atlantic for some time (no overflight US airspace involved). While flights are on irregular basis, frequency has been increasing. FII. USG last week called upon NATO countries deny Soviet overflight and landing requests for flights destined Cuba and Department believes there is reasonably good chance NATO agreement this question. End FII.

However USSR can serve Havana via southern route without overflying any NATO country. Aeroflot TU-114 flew on trial basis Moscow-Conektry-Havana on July 12 mostly over high seas.

has also reported TU-114 flight Moscow-Rabat-Dakar-Havana scheduled for October 17-19.

It is clear Soviets attempting open up southern route using both long-range TU-114 (and thus avoiding most or even all countries which might thwart service) and workhorse short-ranges IL-18 en route such as Moscow-Belgrade-Dakar or Conakry-Pecife-Port-of-Spain-Havana. USG desires

S. H. Stoffel

REA - Mr. Russell CHA - Mr. Follett

170 - Mr. Bettinger

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EST. - Mr. Wilson

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RPM - Mr. Spielman

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supplemental efforts in ETO by moving on broad front to prevent operation  
overhead routes where possible.

Actions addressed except Country should if no overriding objections perceived  
make approaches best governments at highest appropriate level likely to effective  
unless they not permit Soviet overflights or landing on route Cuba. Countries  
concerned under no obligation, legal or otherwise, approve Soviet overflight  
and landing requests since USSR not party to Chicago Convention and International  
Air Services Transit Agreement nor, with possible exception Morocco (see Digital  
812 to Rabat), to any bilateral air transport agreement which accords USSR  
necessary rights. Posts may also, as appropriate, advise significant Soviet  
involvement in Cuba as springboard Cuban-Soviet <sup>expressive purposes</sup> expansion and subversive moves  
against Western Hemisphere and Free World. Soviet use of air transport as  
instrument political proscription rather than commercial venture, facilitation  
Soviet flights to Cuba only serves strengthens Cuban regime and promotes Soviet  
use of Cuba as vehicle further the Cold War designs. We can not ignore US public  
reaction if foreign countries acquiesce Soviet intervention Cuba by permitting  
air access and you should mention this point if appropriate. Finally, you may  
stress approval Soviet requests would accord USSR privileges not enjoyed reciprocally  
by country in question nor in fact by other countries (since USSR does not  
permit overflights its territory to third countries). 7

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(W.M.)

END.

TO: Embassy, PORT-OF-SPAIN  
Embassy, RIO DE JANEIRO  
Embassy, CONAKRY  
Embassy, RABAT  
Embassy, DAKAR

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